



Recovery Residence Grant Program

2025 Report

Pursuant to Health General Article §19–2505 (h)

November 2025

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Executive Summary

Recovery residences are vital in supporting individuals transitioning from substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to independent living. In Maryland, these residences are an integral part of the behavioral health continuum of care. These residences are alcohol- and drug-free environments that promote recovery and social reintegration through structured housing and peer support.

Research has demonstrated that recovery residences support positive outcomes in the treatment of SUD, including long-term abstinence, improved employment opportunities, and reduced involvement with the healthcare and criminal justice systems.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) oversees these residences through the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences (MCORR), which ensures compliance with health and safety standards. Currently, there are 259 recovery residences and 2,468 certified beds, with the highest numbers in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City.

The Recovery Residence Grant Program, established by the Maryland General Assembly, aims to support improved access, quality, and sustainability of services in recovery residences, particularly in underserved areas. Its goals include expanding access to recovery housing, enhancing quality, strengthening peer support, and ensuring long-term sustainability. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, BHA awarded \$410,582 in grants to Cecil, Garrett, Harford, and Howard Counties to support various services within recovery residences. These services included recovery housing, peer support, and transportation for individuals.

BHA plans to continue using the grant program to promote long-term recovery and improve behavioral health outcomes across the state through enhanced oversight and data collection, and by implementing a statewide performance-based data system to track recovery outcomes and service gaps.

Introduction and Overview

Recovery residences are an essential and widely utilized resource in post-treatment addiction recovery. Serving as a critical component of the continuum of care in addiction treatment, these residences provide essential support that bridges formal treatment and full social reintegration. By offering safe, structured, and substance-free living environments, recovery residences play a vital role in initiating and sustaining long-term recovery through the provision of services that promote a safe and healthy living.¹

Recovery residences are alcohol- and drug-free living environments that offer peer support to individuals seeking to build a foundation and maintain sustained recovery from alcohol and substance use disorders (SUDs).

Research consistently demonstrates that living in recovery residences environments are linked with positive outcomes, including sustained abstinence from alcohol and drugs, improved employment rates, and decreased involvement with the criminal justice system thereby promoting long-term recovery.²³ Moreover, recovery residences contribute significantly to reducing healthcare utilization and costs by lowering rates of inpatient treatment readmissions and emergency department visits, while encouraging greater engagement with primary care services.⁴ This plays a crucial role in healthcare utilization, positively impacting residents' healthcare costs.⁵ These recovery support services are designed to assist residents and support their recovery as they transition from treatment to living independently and productively in their community. Stable housing provides the opportunity to continue recovery in a safe environment playing a critical role in supporting individuals transitioning from treatment to long-term

¹ Jason, L. A., Wiedbusch, E., Bobak, T. J., & Taullahu, D. (2020). Estimating the Number of Substance Use Disorder Recovery Homes in the United States. *Alcoholism treatment quarterly*, 38(4), 506–514. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07347324.2020.1760756>

² Polcin, D. L., Korch, R. A., Bond, J., & Galloway, G. (2010). Sober living houses for alcohol and drug dependence: 18-month outcomes. *Journal of substance abuse treatment*, 38(4), 356–365. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsat.2010.02.003> P

³ Jason, L. A., Olson, B. D., Ferrari, J. R., & Lo Sasso, A. T. (2006). Communal housing settings enhance substance abuse recovery. *American journal of public health*, 96(10), 1727–1729. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2005.070839>

⁴ National Association of Recovery Residences [NARR]. (2018). 2018 National Standard 3.0 Compendium <https://narronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NARR-National-Standard-3.0-Compendium.pdf>

⁵ Roth, S. E., Jones, K. G., & Vartanian, K. B. (2023). Assessing the impact of recovery housing on healthcare utilization in Portland, Oregon. *Drug and alcohol dependence reports*, 9, 100192. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2023.100192>

recovery. This critical support system enables individuals to successfully navigate the path from early recovery to lasting sobriety and social integration.⁶⁷⁸

Overview of Maryland Recovery Residences

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) provides oversight for the quality and safety standards of recovery residences. Recovery residences require certification to receive State or federal funds. Certification ensures that these residences meet specific quality and safety standards.

The Health-General Article §7.5–101(o)(1) (2) of the Annotated Code of Maryland defines “recovery residence” as a service that provides alcohol-free and illicit-drug-free housing to individuals with substance-related disorders or addictive disorders or co-occurring mental disorders and substance-related disorders or addictive disorders and does not include clinical treatment services.

BHA is the designated credentialing entity as required by the Health-General Article §19–2501-03. BHA has the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences (MCORR), which oversees the application, certification, recertification, monitoring, and inspection of recovery residences to improve the quality of services. Additionally, BHA has the Maryland RecoveryNet (MDRN) for partnering with service providers across the state to fund access to recovery support services for individuals seeking treatment for substance use and co-occurring disorders.

MDRN collaborates with State Care Coordination (SCC) entities and MCORR to ensure access to certified recovery residences for individuals in early recovery who have been diagnosed with SUDs or co-occurring conditions. These services help cover the costs of an individual's stay in a recovery residence when other resources—such as those from the individual, their family, the community, or various private and public sources—have been used up or are unavailable. MDRN funding is intended to supplement existing services and funding streams and is not meant to replace them. Individuals eligible for MDRN can access SUD Client Support Services funding through their Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) or Local Addiction Authority (LAA). This funding can be used to purchase emergency goods and other services to address needs that may hinder their recovery.

⁶ Society for Community Research and Action—Community Psychology, Division 27 of the American Psychological Association (2013). The role of recovery residences in promoting long-term addiction recovery. *American journal of community psychology*, 52(3-4), 406–411. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10464-013-9602-6>

⁷ Mericle, A. A., Slaymaker, V., Gliske, K., Ngo, Q., & Subbaraman, M. S. (2022). The role of recovery housing during outpatient substance use treatment. *Journal of substance abuse treatment*, 133, 108638. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsat.2021.108638>

⁸ Jason, L. A., Olson, B. D., Ferrari, J. R., & Lo Sasso, A. T. (2006). Communal housing settings enhance substance abuse recovery. *American journal of public health*, 96(10), 1727–1729. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2005.070839>

Certified recovery residences provide safe and structured environments that support individuals recovering from substance use disorders. MCORR recognizes all certified recovery residences. As of October 2025, the state has 259 recovery residences and 2,468 certified beds. Anne Arundel County and Baltimore City have the highest numbers of recovery residences and beds. Anne Arundel County leads with 89 recovery residences and 553 beds, while Baltimore City has 69 residences and 220 beds. MCORR does not recognize non-certified recovery residences, While these residences can still offer a supportive environment, they operate without formal oversight or verified quality and safety standards.

BHA oversees the work of certified recovery residences by collecting data and information from all certified and MCORR approved facilities. This includes information on applicant demographics, staffing, and property details.

Program Overview

The Health-General § 19–2505, Recovery Residence Grant Program, was created by Chapter 276, Maryland Laws of 2023, to improve the availability of recovery residences across the state, especially in underserved areas. This Act allows MDH to establish a grant program to increase the number of certified recovery residences.

The program's primary goals are to:

- Expand access to safe, supportive recovery housing.
- Enhance the quality of existing facilities.
- Improve the scope and consistency of services.
- Support the long-term sustainability of recovery residences.

BHA oversees the act's implementation. To ensure effective execution, BHA has developed application procedures, criteria for prioritizing applications, and grant award guidelines.

FY2025 Grant Overview

BHA announced the availability of grants for certified recovery residences through the Recovery Residence Grant (Maryland Code Ann., Health–Gen. § 19–2505) and convened a pre-bidders conference. Eight applications were received and reviewed.

In October 2024, BHA awarded four grants totaling \$410,582 for fiscal year 2025. These grants are intended for the Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA) or the Local Addiction Authority (LAA) to distribute to recovery residences for transportation, peer support, and housing services. The distribution of funds and the respective counties that received these awards are as follows:

1. Howard County: \$52,800
2. Harford County: \$63,675
3. Cecil County: \$179,200
4. Garrett County: \$114,907

Grants will be renewable based on funding availability.

2025 Program Implementation Outcomes

The counties that received the grant award utilized the funds for implementation and support of recovery residence activities, as well as for operational and administrative activities to enhance service provision.

Cecil County

The County utilized the grant funds for several activities, including the:

- Provision of comprehensive recovery housing, peer support, and transportation services to 38 individuals.
- The conduct of appropriate placement assessments for 42 individuals in the recovery housing program, of those assessed, nine were accepted, and the remaining individuals were referred to other levels of care that aligned with their specific needs, ensuring they received appropriate support.
- The development of 23 individualized recovery plans to address participants' goals and needs by providing structured guidance and support throughout their recovery process.
- The provision of financial support for first- and last-month's rent to many residents transitioning to independent living to facilitate the provision of a stable foundation as individuals continue to rebuild their lives.
- The hiring of staff dedicated exclusively to the recovery house programming. These team members have played a vital role in delivering one-on-one support and personalized recovery planning, addressing areas such as transportation coordination, budgeting, financial planning, and the development of individualized recovery plans.

The County reports that the ongoing efforts supported by this grant have had a meaningful impact, and continued funding will allow it to further support individuals on their path to long-term recovery.

Garret County

The County used the awarded grant funds for several key activities, including.

- The provision of safe, structured housing and recovery support for 14 individuals.
- The assessment of 12 additional individuals for placement into the recovery residence program.
- The provision of peer support and resources during intake for individuals who were not yet ready for entry into a recovery residence.
- The provision of 389 transportation services for residents to help them attend court, medical appointments, job interviews, and treatment.,
- The implementation of structured programming, which included peer-led recovery support groups, life skills training, and individualized case management by staff.

The implementation of this program resulted in outcomes directly tied to the support made possible by funding. Observed outcomes included residents demonstrating measurable progress across multiple dimensions of Recovery Capital,⁹ such as employment, family reunification, and access to health services. There was also a notable decrease in re-incarceration rates among program participants, contributing to broader community safety and well-being. Peer mentors played a crucial role in fostering accountability, hope, and sustained recovery, reinforcing a culture of mutual aid.

Harford County

The County used the awarded grant funds to provide services to 14 individuals who also had their Rehabilitation Plans completed, and to cover administrative salary expenses. The County plans to implement additional components of the Peer Recovery Specialist services and transportation in FY26. With foundational systems now in place, the county reports activities for FY26 are on schedule and progressing toward meeting the program's objectives.

Notably, a county recovery residence onboarded a Peer Recovery Specialist in June 2025; the specialist began delivering services in the first quarter of FY26, ensuring complete alignment with the intended scope of work outlined in the grant.

Howard County

The County used the awarded grant funds for the following purposes:

- Administrative salary expenses.
- Conducting 11 Recovery Capital Assessments for both current and new residents.
- Developing in-depth, personalized recovery plans for residents, created by Peer Counselors who utilized the assessment results to support ongoing recovery activities..

BHA used the Universal Reporting Form (URF) to track the utilization of funds for services, operations, and programs. The LBHA and LAA contract monitors collect and review quarterly data reports from certified recovery residences receiving funding from the Recovery Residences Grant Program. The demographic information collected includes details on age, sex, race, ethnicity, veteran status and housing status.

Future Activities

MDH will focus on the following actions to support the implementation of the program:

- Grant Funding: Provided grant funds to four grantees in the third and fourth quarter of FY2025.
- Hiring a Grant Manager: BHA intended to recruit a Recovery Residence Grant Manager in the second quarter of FY2025. Following the hiring freeze, BHA sought authorization to hire for the position. The PIN was unfrozen in FY2026 and BHA is moving forward

⁹ Recovery Capital and is an evidence-based assessment & recovery planning instrument, see <https://www.recoveryoutcomes.com/rec-cap/>

with the hiring process. This individual will be responsible for the ongoing implementation, oversight, training, and technical assistance of the Recovery Residence Grant Program.

- Effective January 2026, BHA will be implementing a data collection system and performance-based outcome measures via Qualtrics to track provider quality and metrics of recovery residence providers. This system will be Recovery Residences' primary data and reporting tool. By increasing the use of recovery capital we aim to support recovery residence providers in successfully implementing the model, guide individual care planning and community engagement, and provide a means for monitoring and evaluating program outcomes. New features, such as geo-mapping, will help identify gaps in the availability of recovery support services.

Conclusion

The Recovery Residence Grant Program, established by Health-General §19–2505, is a significant advancement in tackling the ongoing challenges of substance use disorders in Maryland. The program is essential in helping individuals transition from treatment to long-term recovery by increasing access to safe and supportive housing.

Appendix

Application Procedures for the Recovery Residence Grant Program

The application procedures for the grant include:

1. The development and release of a Notice of Funding Opportunity
2. The organization of a pre-bidders meeting for clarification
3. The submission of proposals by interested bidders

Criteria Used to for Prioritize Applications Under the Recovery Residence Grant Program

The criteria for prioritizing applications for the recovery residence grant program include the following:

1. Submission of a completed proposal that includes:
 - a. A detailed description of how the funds will support a participant's recovery.
 - b. A timeline of events outlining critical tasks necessary for successful project implementation.
 - c. A line-item budget to evaluate the jurisdiction's ability to implement the proposed program.
2. A copy of a current certificate of compliance from the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences or an application submitted to the Local Addiction Authorities or Local Behavioral Health Authority.

Completed proposals are reviewed by a panel comprising representatives from multiple agencies and disciplines, convened by the Local Addiction Authority (LAA) or Local Behavioral Health Authority (LBHA).

Grant Eligibility and Review Criteria

The grant eligibility criteria focused on recovery residences certified by the Maryland Certification of Recovery Residences (MCOORR) and those that applied for certification and were likely to receive it by the program's proposed start date. The eligibility prioritized

1. Geographical areas that faced challenges in accessing recovery support services.
2. Demonstrated local need in the community for recovery residences
3. Plan for outreach and engagement
4. Provider adherence to best practices
5. Target population served

Procedures for Awarding Grants Under the Recovery Residence Grant Program

1. A final comprehensive review of the ranked applications is necessary to ensure that the proposed services and programs meet the grant criteria and requirements.
2. Funds will be disbursed to grantees through the Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHA) or Local Addictions Authority.
3. The Notice of Award is issued to grantees annually via the LBHA or Local Addictions Authority.

4. The allocation of funds will depend on availability, eligibility, the strength of the proposal, and the applicant's qualifications. Grantees may receive partial or complete Funding based on these factors.

Procedures and Criteria for Implementation of the Recovery Residence Grant Program

BHA will issue a Condition of Award (COA) and a Statement of Work (SOW) to Local Behavioral Health Authorities (LBHAs) or Local Addictions Authorities that are awarded the Recovery Residence Grant.

The COA will outline the requirements or contingencies the grantee must meet to receive or continue receiving grant funds. Grantees have the opportunity to address any specific concerns, requirements, or areas needing verification before they can access grant funds.

Grantees are responsible for providing documentation for approved purchases and delivering the required deliverables. The SOW will detail specific tasks and deliverables, outline what the grantee is expected to accomplish, and provide timelines associated with the grant.